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DEC 07 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re application of	:	DECISION ON PETITION
William Clay Ratliff et al.	:	TO MAKE SPECIAL
Application No. 10/682,058	:	(INFRINGEMENT)
Filed: October 9, 2003	:	
For: AIRPORT BRIDGE AND LIFT	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R § 1.102(d) filed April 13, 2004 to make the above-identified application special.

The petition requests that the above-identified application be made special under the procedure set forth in M.P.E.P. § 708.02, item II: Infringement.

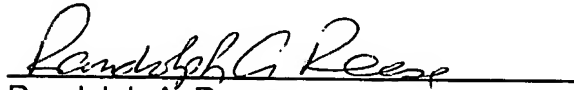
MPEP 708.02 states that a Petition to Make Special based on Infringement must have the following: (1) the appropriate petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i); (2) a statement by the assignee, applicant, or attorney alleging: (A) that there is an infringing device or product actually on the market or method in use; (B) that a rigid comparison of the alleged infringing device, product or method with the claims of the application has been made, and that, in his or her opinion, some of the claims are unquestionably infringed; and (C) that he or she has made a careful and thorough search of the prior art, or has good knowledge of the prior art, and has sent a copy of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims.

The petition filed April 13, 2004 meets all of the requirements above and, therefore, the petition is **GRANTED**.

In compliance with element 2(C) above, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on April 13, 2004.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications; (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn; and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference and appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt *bona fide* effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randolph A. Reese", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Randolph A. Reese
Special Programs Examiner
Technology Center 3600
(703) 308-2121

RAR/rwg: 10/18/04